

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC , EAID

SUBJECT: US-UAE COOPERATION FOR SYRIAN SCHOLARSHIPS

REF: (A) ABU DHABI 1738 NOTAL, (B) DAMASCUS 2954

1. EMBASSY DAMASCUS HAS REQUESTED ONLY FIVE RPT FIVE CU-FUNDED STUDENT GRANTS FOR FY 1975. IF UAE COMMITTED TO STRICT PARITY, UAE FUNDS NECESSARY FOR FIVE RATHER THAN TEN GRANTS. (NATURALLY, IF UAEG STILL WILLING FUND TEN STUDENTS, USG VASTLY PLEASED.) DEPT STILL FORESEES AVERAGE GRANT COST APPROXIMATELY DOLS 8,500.

2. CU AGREES MECHANISMS ABU DHABI 1531 PARA 3 SENSIBLE. POST SHOULD NOTE THAT UAE EMBASSY HERE HAS HANDS FULL WITH ITS OWN STUDENT ACTIVITIES. DETAILS FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL.

3. TEXT OF LETTER PROPOSED ABU DHABI 1537, WITH CHANGES AS APPROPRIATE, DEPENDING ON NUMBER OF STUDENTS UAEG WILLING TO SUPPORT, HAS DEPT APPROVAL.

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4. FOR DAMASCUS: DEPT STILL AWAITING DECISION ON SARG INVITATION FOR AFME TO RETURN. UNDERSTAND SARG SELECTING STUDENTS. AFME INFORMS US THAT WITH ASSURED USG/UAEG FUNDING, CAN STILL EFFECT PLACEMENTS ON SCHEDULE. HOWEVER, AS TIME PASSES AFME WILL FIND IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO MEET TIMETABLE. PLEASE ADVISE ANY SARG STEPS TOWARD AFME RETURN.

4. ALSO, PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER UAE PREPARED MATCH ALL OR SOME OF ONE HUNDRED SCHOLARSHIPS EXPECTED TO BE FUNDED BY AID WHEN AID BILL PASSES. INGERSOLL

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